

**Message for International Education Week
by the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP
Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth**

I am pleased to provide my support to a week of educational events that are *Inspiring Students Locally to Succeed Globally*. International Education Week continues to be a highpoint of the academic year; building common ground between individuals from around the world through the act of sharing our diversity of cultures and languages. In this manner, international education remains critical to building mutual understanding and maintaining collaboration among peoples from around the world.

Perhaps this is no more apparent than in the continuing education policy dialogue shared between the United States and Australia. The annual Roundtable conversations between officials provide an opportunity to share educational best practice and cutting-edge innovations in our mutual quest to provide an outstanding education for all children.

This year, the spirit of cooperative student-learning between Australia and the United States is brought forward through the Green Community Kit project. During International Education Week students from Strathfield South High School in New South Wales and Thurgood Marshall Academy in Washington DC will be linked via simulcast as they share what they are learning about sustainable building and living.

Australia and America share a strong commitment to lifting student achievement, attainment and access. The Australian Government has the ambition that 40 per cent of all 25 to 34 year olds attain a bachelor level qualification or above by 2025. In achieving this goal, we will help ensure that all Australian students into the world are confident, creative and successful learners, capable of succeeding and prospering on the world stage.

I offer my congratulations to Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, and Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, along with their staff at the Department of Education and the Department of State for organising the 12th Annual International Education Week.

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